

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SHAH, IN WIDE-RANGING INTERVIEW TO OPPOSITION MARDOM PARTY
PAPER, REAFFIRMS NECESSITY FOR MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM.

REF: A-187

SUMMARY : SHANSHAH URGES ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO PARTY SYSTEM AND
PEOPLES' PARTICIPATION THEREIN. DEFINES "TRUE DEM*CRACY" AS EQUAL-
ITY OF ALL CITIZENS BEFORE THE LAW AND STATES "GREAT CIVILIZATION"
ERA WILL BE REACHED WHEN IRAN'S RICHES FULLY HARNESSSED TO THE
PEOPLES' SERVICES. ENVISAGES IRAN WILL BE IN RANKS OF MOST ADVANCED
NATIONS WITHIN NEXT 30 YEARS. END SUMMARY

1. PRESS DECEMBER 31 FRONT-PAGED SHAH'S INTERVIEW WITH MARDOM
PARTY NEWSPAPER (MARDOM), WHICH APPEARED DECEMBER 30 IN ITS FIRST
ISSUE FOLLOWING REORGANIZATION. SALIENT POINTS MADE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. NEED FOR MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM: THE MONARCH STRESSED IRANISN
MUST UNDERSTAND INVOLVEMENT IN PARTY POLITICS IS A FORM OF INSURANCE
FOR THE FUTURE. IF THE DAY SHOULD COME WHEN IRAN'S LEADERSHIP COULD
NOT EFFECTIVELY BE FILLED BY ONE MAN THEN, THE SHAH STATED, "IT IS
THIS NATION, THIS 32 MILLION PEOPLE, WHO MUST FILL THE FACANCY."

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CONTINUING, HE SAID: A. A PARTILIAMENTARY REGIME WITHOUT POLITICAL

PARTIES WOULD CAUSE ANARCHY AND ONE-PARTY RULE WOULD CREATE EITHER COMMUNISM OR FASCISM; B. TWO-PARTY RULE, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE MORE POLITICAL BODIES AT THE START, WOULD BE BASIS OF GOVERNMENT IN IRAN BECAUSE TWO MAIN LINES OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY WERE POSSIBLE IN FRAMEWORK OF THE "SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION", I.E., PROVING ONE'S COMPETENCE IN EXECUTING THE REVOLUTION'S PRINCIPLES AND CHANGING GOVERNMENT BY POPULAR ELECTION OF MORE WORTHY SUCCESSORS; C. THE PEOPLE MUST JOIN AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL PARTIES IN ORDER TO GAIN ABILITY TO RULE COLLECTIVELY WHEN "LEADERSHIP IS NO LONGER SO DISTINCT AND EASILY FELT"; AND D. POLITICAL PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE OPPOSITION, WERE FREE TO MAKE CRITICISMS TO ADAPT COUNTRY TO THE RAPIDLY CHANGING TIMES. LATTER STATEMENT WAS PREFACED BY SHAH SAYING HE WOULD NEVER COMPROMISE THE BASIC IDEALS OF THE REVOLUTION, SUCH AS STATE OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF NATIONAL RESOURCES.

B. DEFINITION OF DEMOCRACY: "TRUE DEMOCRACY", THE SHAH SAID, "MEANS THE EQUALITY OF ALL CITIZENS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF A COUNTRY BEFORE THE LAW THAT CLEARLY DEFINES EVERYONE'S LIMITS. BUT IF ANYONE IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY SHOULD TRY TO TRAMPLE ON THE FREEDOM OF OTHERS, OR TO COMMIT TREASON IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT AS DEMOCRACY."

C. "THE GREAT CIVILIZATION": THE SHAH STATED THIS STAGE WOULD BE ACHIEVED WHEN THE NATION'S RICHES WERE FULLY DEVELOPED AND HARNESSSED TO THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE, WHEN ALL SOCIAL PROJECTS WERE ACCOMPLISHED AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WAS UNIVERSALLY APLIED, AND WHEN SPIRITUAL HONESTY AND ETHICS WERE GIVEN THE EMPHASIS THEY DESERVE. THE BEST USE OF NATIONAL WEALTH, THE SHAH SAID, MEANT THAT ALL PEOPLE SHOULD ENJOY HEALTH, EDUCATION, CIVIC AND OTHER SERVICES, AND BE PROTECTED BY A STRONG INSURANCE UMBRELLA FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE. SPIRITUAL AND ETHICAL VALUES SHOULD BE INCULCATED FROM THE NURSERY TO PRODUCE A NATION OF HONEST AND CULTURED CITIZENS. HE HOPED IRAN WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE PRELIMINARY STEPS IN BUILDING SUCH A SOCIETY BY THE END OF THE SIXTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND "SHALL HAVE JOINED THE RANKS OF THE MOST ADVANCED NATIONS IN THE WORLD IN 25 TO 30 YEARS." (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL COMMENTS THIS IS FIRST DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HAS BEEN TERMED THE GREAT CIVILIZATION.)

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D. THE SHAH CONDEMNED CORRUPTION, CHARACTERIZED BY HAVING TOO MANY CHILDREN AS A SIN AGAINST SOCIETY, DECLARED PRIVATE INVESTORS COULD ENTER ANY UNDERTAKING EXCEPT NATIONALIZED ONES, AND ADVOCATED, UNLESS COMPLETE DISARMAMENT ACHIEVED, THAT "SMALLER PEOPLES" CONTINUE TO BUILD UP THEIR DEFENSE POTENTIAL.

2. COMMENT: THERE APPEARS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE SHAH IS INTENT UPON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEANINGFUL LOYAL OPPOSITION PARTY.

HIS SELECTION OF THE NEWLY REORGANIZED OPPOSITION MARDOM PARTY
PAPER TO REITERATE HIS VIEWS ON THE NEED AND DESIRE FOR A MULTI-
PARTY SYSTEM EVINCES A MOVE TO ENHANCE THE MARDOM'S STATURE AND
ATTRACTIVENESS TO WOULD-BE LOYAL OPPOSITINISTS. THIS MAY
ENCOURAGE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT IN THE PAST TO JOIN AN
OPPOSITION PARTY TO COME INTO ITS RANKS. AT SAME TIME, ON THE
EVE OF DEPARTURE LOR#A WORKING FACATION ABROAD, THE SHAH
CHOSE TO GIVE A GLIMPSE OF HIS FUTURE HOPES FOR I *N.
HELMS

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